

REMARKS

Remarks

This is a response to the Office Action dated September 9, 2005. Claims 41-52 are pending in the application. Claims 15-20, 22-28, 30-31, and 33-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,151,920 ("Shoup"). Claims 21 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shoup in view of U.S. patent No. 4,514,007 ("Macht"). Claims 25, 37, and 41 were objected to because of informalities. These rejections and objections are believed to be overcome in view of the cancellation of claims 15-40 and the amendment made to claim 41.

The rejections and objections from the Office Action dated September 9, 2005 are discussed below in connection with the various claims. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner would allow Claim 41.

Claim Objections

Claims 25, 37, and 41 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 25 and 37 have been cancelled. Claim 41 has been revised to correct the informalities. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw these objections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 15-20, 22-28, 30-31, and 33-40 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shoup. Applicants have cancelled claims 15-40, so this rejection is rendered moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has also rejected claims 21 and 29 under the obviousness provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shoup in view of Macht. Applicants have cancelled claims 21 and 29, so this rejection is also rendered moot.

New Claims

With this response, new claims 42-52 have been added to more clearly define the invention. Support for these claims may be found in the specification. No new matter has been added. New claims 42-49 depend from claim 41, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. New claims 50-52 have been also added, which are similar to that which the Examiner has already indicated is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner allow new claims 42-52.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and that they be withdrawn. The Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned representative if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason. In the event that the Examiner is not persuaded by Applicants' arguments, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the Amendment for purposes of Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,



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